



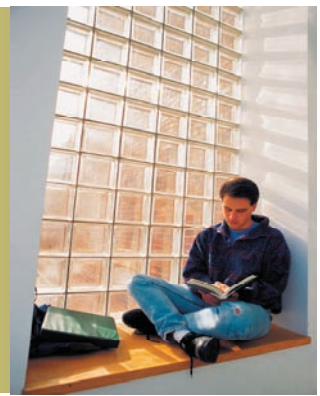
Rhode Island's Career Resource Network

News Corner

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Support for Academic and Career Counseling Programs



Change is **CONSTANT!**

We change constantly and so does the world around us – including the working world. Because a single occupation will no longer take workers from the beginning to the end of their working lives, adaptability is an important skill to carry into the future.....from "The High Five," in The Real Game © Bill Barry

Changes are much more dramatic than this statement would indicate. Since they are gradual we may not notice their impact on us as career educators and on our students or clients. "We change constantly" is obvious as children grow physically and mentally, and as adults we notice signs of increasing "maturity" - for example, we don't run as fast or jump as high as we once did.

Technology, which can be defined as the total knowledge of mankind, is doubling every five to seven years, experts estimate. Knowledge is increasing at an ever faster rate. Think of some changes within the past 50 years in television, computers, telephones, health care diagnostic and treatment tools, and new medicines. How about iPods and Podcasts? Technology includes the way we do things (process) as well as development of physical items. People shop on the Internet and pay electronically with a credit card. Companies like UPS have perfected systems for shipping packages and tracking their progress toward their destinations. Manufacturing companies have systems for insuring that materials are delivered when needed, saving costs of storage or delays. Almost any business can show new processes that have increased efficiency and cut costs.

Demographics are changing, too. Because of new technology in health care, people are living longer. Younger people make up a smaller part of the workforce, as the proportion of older people is growing. Minorities account for an increasing proportion of the population, while the percentage of whites is declining.

One impact of these changes is the "flat world" described by Thomas Friedman in his popular book, *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*. Increased access to information makes possible progress in formerly "developing" countries and challenges the economic and technical superiority of the United States. Workers in our country compete for jobs with workers all over the world.

The implications are breathtaking. Today's students will live in a different world, changing at an accelerating pace. Some occupations will become less important or disappear (think of iceman, town crier). New occupations will appear in such fields as nanotechnology and older occupations will require new skills (e.g., auto mechanic to auto technician). Employability (SCANS) skills are growing in importance. Future workers will be expected to be adaptable, learn new skills and knowledge, work well with other people, and otherwise function in a changing society and workplace. Familiarity with other languages, written and spoken, will become more and more important.

Career educators, we have our challenges if we are to prepare our students or clients for the world of the future.

The RI Career Resource Network will be unable to continue operation beyond the end of this fiscal year (mid-July). Congress authorized the Career Resource Network for another year, but failed to provide an appropriation to finance it. The CRN and its predecessor, the RI Occupational Information Coordinating Committee, have provided support to academic and career counseling for students and adults for almost thirty years.

The summer issue of the News Corner will provide specific information for schools and organizations which use the CIDS (computerized guidance programs such as Choices), the Real Game, and other products and services of the CRN.

Individuals interested in reestablishing the CRN program may join a Legislative Listserv established by America's Career Resource Network Association (ACRNA) to provide information on legislative action and how to support it. To join the Listserv, download the form from the CRN web site, www.dlt.ri.gov/crn, fill it out, and mail or fax it to ACRNA (instructions are on the form).





Real Game Evaluation Projects

The evaluation of The Real Game in middle schools is nearing completion as the Center for School Counseling Outcomes Research at the University of Massachusetts receives the remaining data from participating schools. The elementary school Real Game project also awaits the last reports from participating schools. Final reports on both projects should be available soon on the Real Game web site, www.realgame.org, or the ACRNA web site, www.acrna.net. Several Rhode Island schools participated in each of these projects.

Computer Assisted Career Guidance

New price schedule - Effective 3/1/06, a new RI pricing schedule is in place for the computer guidance programs of the RI Career Information Delivery System (CIDS). The new prices are based on school enrollment, or persons served, for non-school organizations. This generally represents a lower cost, especially for smaller schools. The range of prices for the programs is as follows, with the lower price for schools with 100 or fewer students, and the higher price for schools with over 2,000 students:

- ◆ Paws in Jobland, \$100 to \$300
- ◆ Career Futures, \$158 to \$458
- ◆ Choices Explorer, \$263 to \$763
- ◆ Choices CD, \$495 to \$845
- ◆ Choices Planner, \$363 to \$845
- ◆ Ability Profiler, \$195 to \$395
- ◆ Do What You Are, \$195 to \$395
- ◆ The Learning Styles Inventory, \$150 to \$840
- ◆ Guidance Central, \$1,121 to \$4,303
- ◆ Test Prep, \$450 to \$2,695 (varies by test)

Over the years the cost of CIDS programs has been decreasing as the quality has greatly improved. Twelve years ago schools were paying approximately \$2,000 for an annual Choices license.

The ordering procedure remains the same, except that it will be necessary to determine the price for each order. When planning the order, please call the CRN (462-8746) and give the enrollment of your school. You will be given the new price. You will then have to contact Bridges (by 800 number or email) to verify the price. The last step is to prepare a purchase order and send it to the CRN (not to Bridges!).

New Learning Style Inventory

The new online Learning Style Inventory (LSI) from Bridges Transitions Co. supplements Choices and other CIDS programs. Information and opportunity to sample the program at www.bridges.com/learncp

Occupational Focus:



Medical Transcriptionists

Medical transcriptionists are experts in the language of medicine. They turn healthcare providers' spoken notes into well-edited, typed reports. They can recognize and spell the names of bones, muscles, procedures, and prescriptions. Their efforts ensure that doctors and other healthcare workers have accurate information about patients.

As they work, transcriptionists translate medical abbreviations and jargon into their expanded forms so that records are easy to understand. They check the spelling and meaning of terms by consulting standard medical reference materials both printed and electronic. Experienced transcriptionists spot inconsistencies or mistakes in a medical report and verify correct data. This reduces the chance that patients will receive ineffective or harmful care.

The emergence of speech recognition technology, which translates sound into text automatically and creates draft reports, has allowed some medical transcriptionists to spend less time typing and more time editing for accuracy and clarity.

About 40 percent of medical transcriptionists work in hospitals and another 40 percent in physicians' offices and clinics. Others work in laboratories, colleges and universities, and transcription service offices. Some work from home as independent contractors or subcontractors.

The median hourly wage in RI in 2004 was \$14.98. There were approximately 340 medical transcriptionists employed in the state. The high demand for transcription services will be sustained by the continued need for electronic documentation. Advances in speech recognition technology are not expected to reduce the demand.

Most medical transcriptionists have completed postsecondary education at a vocational school or community college. Completion of a 2-year associate degree or 1-year certificate program including coursework in anatomy, medical terminology, legal issues, and English grammar is highly recommended. Certified Medical Transcriptionist designation is awarded by the American Assoc. for Medical Transcription to those who earn passing scores on exams.

For additional information:

American Assoc. for Medical Transcription - www.aamt.org
Occupational Outlook Handbook - www.bls.gov/oco

Do you have comments or suggestions on the contents of our CRN News Corner? Contact Us!

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What's New in the CRN Corner?



Career Convergence quarterly web magazine from The National Career Development Association (NCDA) for K-12, colleges, adult programs, and others: www.ncda.org

Connections quarterly newsletter from the CareerOneStop suite including America's Career InfoNet, America's Job Bank, America's Service Locator, and others: www.careeronestop.org/Newsroom/ViewCOSUpdates.asp

HIGH SCHOOL REFORM

National Science Foundation examines Science and Engineering Indicators and K-12 education in its 2006 report. Concern that students in science and mathematics are not improving their learning relative to international peers. www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=105847&org=NSF&from=news

The Education Trust new web resource offers tools to help policymakers, parents, practitioners, and the public understand the problems and potential of American high schools. www2.edtrust.org/EdTrust/hspage.htm

Results That Matter: 21st Century Skills and High School Reform, "even if every student in the country satisfied traditional metrics, they still would remain woefully under-prepared for 21st century success beyond high school." www.21stcenturyskills.org/documents/P21_report.pdf

StandUp: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation campaign to improve high schools by giving parents tools they need to get their kids a quality education. www.standup.org

New Education Website: Articles and links to resources that discuss what the Alliance for Excellent Education refers to as the "crisis in America's high schools." www.all4ed.org/whats_at_stake/index2.html

Public High School Graduation Rates. Manhattan Institute for Policy Research study of the Class of 2003 high school graduation rates by the 100 largest school districts. www.manhattan-institute.org/html/cr_48.htm

The Silent Epidemic: Perspectives of High School Dropouts, a survey commissioned by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, from the student perspective. www.civicenterprises.net/pdfs/thesilentepidemic3-06.pdf

HIGH SCHOOL to COLLEGE TRANSITION

Find out about the graduation rate of 4-year colleges and universities in the US from College Results. www.collegeresults.org

More Threats to Access to Higher Education report cautions that access to postsecondary education could be increasingly denied to low-income, minority, and other traditionally underserved student populations. www.ihep.org/Pubs/PDF/ConvergenceFINAL.pdf

Encouraging Career Pathways: The Community College Resource Center summarizes what's known about high school and postsecondary career pathways that move career and technical education students toward the skills they need for work. <http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/Publication.asp?UID=380>

ADULTS, OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH and OTHER TOPICS

Adult Learners. Information from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities on older students. www.aascu.org/policy_matters/v3_2/default.htm

Disadvantaged Young Men. This Urban Institute presents policies to improve the educational and employment prospects of ages 16 to 24 who have been out of school and the labor market for over a year. www.urban.org/publications/900909.html

Reconnecting Out-of-School Youth. This American Youth Policy Forum report on what is being done reconnects out-of-school youth to the social and economic mainstream. www.aypf.org/publications/WhateverItTakes.htm

The Finance Project on-line clearinghouse to promote improved financing and sustainability of youth-serving programs. www.financeproject.org/pubs/index.asp

Free GED Resources. E-Learn, Inc. free educational series for GED Test candidates, developed to support adult learners and the networks that serve them. www.passged.com

New Approach to Career Advancement for Low Wage Workers. The Work Advancement and Support Center demonstration tests an innovative approach to fostering employment retention and career advancement for a range of low-earners. www.mdrc.org/publications/424/overview.html

Highschoolstartups.com is a comprehensive site that will give young entrepreneurs information on starting their own business on the web. It includes profiles of successful students who took the risk to start a business and found their efforts paid off handsomely. www.highschoolstartups.com

Financial Literacy Month. Learn the basics about getting the most out of your money - saving, investing, banking, and buying a home. Try an online retirement calculator. Test your "financial smarts." www.ed.gov/free/fin-lit.html

Engaging Students to Success and Citizenship. Report from the Coalition for Community Schools offers evidence that community-based learning can help re-engage students using real-world content and issues. www.communityschools.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=44&Itemid=49

Career Workshops July 28 - Ellen Weaver Paquette, retired director of the Career Resource Center at RI College and a trainer in CRN workshops for several years, has joined with a fellow GCDF master trainer, Marjorie Hendrickson, to offer two workshops on Friday, July 28, at the Hilton Garden Inn, One Thurber St. at Jefferson Blvd. in Warwick. Participants may attend either or both workshops.

8:00 a.m. - Noon Practical Applications of Career Theory
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Informal Career Assessments

For additional information, including cost and registration instructions check www.careerconsultingconcepts.com.

A Web Site Worth Surfing:

nextSTEPmag.com
your life, after high school

www.nextstepmag.com



This web site, geared to preparation for college, includes a home page and sections for college-university, career center, students, parents, and counselors. Although it is operated by a publisher (Next Step Publications, Inc., in Victor, NY), and provides information on ordering their publications, this does not distract from the valuable free resources.

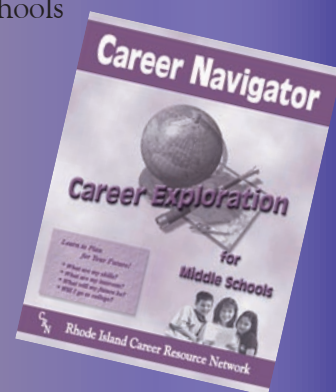
Each section includes links to a series of articles of interest to the target group. For example, the counselor page highlights articles on becoming an Advanced Placement school and interviews with counselors in schools in North and South Carolina, among others. It also offers free copies of Next Step Magazine for your school.

The parent page centers on financial aid and other topics of interest to parents, while the student page focuses on finding a college and scholarships and learning about college and university life.

The **RI Career Navigator**, a publication for middle school students, is now available online at www.dlt.ri.gov/crn/navigator.htm. Print versions will be delivered to all middle schools as soon as available.

Topics covered include:

- Importance of career planning
- Skills related to income
- Simple assessments of skills, interests, and learning styles
- Why grades are important and how to get good grades
- Importance of high school graduation; planning for high school
- Basic information on 174 occupations
- Suggested additional print and electronic resources



Other Notes:

Kudos to Rhode Island Counselors

This spring has brought much evidence of the leadership of Rhode Island counselors at the national level.

- ◆ North Kingstown High School has been designated by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) as a Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) school and will be acknowledged during a special ceremony at ASCA's annual conference in Chicago in June. It is the first school in New England to receive the award.
- ◆ Sandra O'Brien, Steve Pinch, and Rob Schuman of Narragansett High School are authors of an article, "Building the School-to-Work Connection, in the March/April issue of the School Counselor magazine. They present a simple and effective system of using the SCANS competencies to help students relate school experiences to future success.
- ◆ Two Rhode Island counselors serve on the governing board of ASCA. Kevin Quinn, counselor at South Kingstown High School, is Secondary Level Vice President, and Dr. Patricia Nailor, retired director of counseling and social services in the Providence Schools, is North Atlantic Regional Vice President. Quinn is also quoted in the Legal/Ethical column of the March/April School Counselor.
- ◆ The RI Framework for Comprehensive K-12 School Counseling Programs has been published by the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education in collaboration with the RI School Counselor Association, Providence College, and RI School-to-Career. Coordinated by Dr. Arthur Lisi (Coventry), Barbara Crudale (South Kingstown), and Anne Favali (retired, Cranston) dozens of counselors and others contributed. It is available at www.riscassoc.org/RIFramework_web.pdf.

Career Anchor Availability - The RI Career Anchor, for high school students, was distributed to schools and organizations by the RI National Guard in the fall. Due to a miscommunication with the printer, the quantities delivered were only half of the number requested. Users were notified, and asked to arrange to receive the missing quantities. Many did so, but many others did not. Extra copies for the coming year should request them by mid-June.